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Kelley Permitted Soliciting for FBI Agents' Defense

FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley has permitted a private organization to solicit in the bureau's field offices funds for the defense of agents accused of burglaries and other illegal acts in connection with investigations of radical groups.

An FBI spokesman said the fund-raising did not violate FBI regulations that forbid solicitation by private charities or other groups on government premises during working hours. He said the bureau has no power to prohibit organizations from soliciting field offices by mail, but forbids any personal contact between agents and fund-raisers during working hours.

The fund-raising appeal was sent to the bureau's 59 field offices by the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI. The spokesman said Kelly sent a note with the letters in which he stressed that any contributions were to be voluntary.